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CANADIAN WEEKLY STAMP NEWS

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY.

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NEW YORK NOTES.

Cuba is the talk of the Universe at present, but it has not materially advanced the price of this Island's stamps, and reports that current issues will become scarce are untrue. We might however look for a provincial government issue in the near future, that is to say if the insurgents are victorious. But don't hold your Cuban stamps for higher prices. One dealer here claims to have a barrel of the latest issue. We haven't seen them.

The Collectors' Club is an assured success, and quite a few persons have joined in the last two weeks. The Club house is situated on Fourth Ave. opposite Madison Square Garden and is, therefore, very centrally located. Dues are nominal and it is worth while for an enthusiastic philatelist to become a member.

Although various persons have tried to form a New York and Brooklyn branch of the P S. of A. their efforts have been in vain, and neither that society nor the S. of P. can boast of a branch hear. It seems that some people are very much prejudiced against these societies, and although willing to join them do not care to become members of a branch.

The publishers of the International Album expect to have a large sale among younger collectors, but my opinion is that a beginner should know something about watermarks, etc., and if he is at all ambitious he will find out and will then have to purchase an old album, or a blank one. If the beginner is not taught, philately will take a backward step or two.

Madrid, Spain, is the latest city to use the bicycle for postal facilities, an American firm having just sent over a trial shipment. The English Government is open to bids for 25000 wheels to be used in the P.O. department

Dealers are trying to unload their stock of Columbian stamps, notably the $2 which can be purchased unused most anywhere at considerable off face value.

The latest is that Scott's Catalogue will on Jan. 1st. But we have heard this statement before. Be patient.

SWEYN.

SOME IDEAS ABOUT STAMP COLLECTING.

My dear reader, I am not going to sketch before your eye the old lady that gathered stamps with a view of securing a place in some old people's home, or the English collector who wanted only cancelled stamps in his collection, even when he knew that the Abyssinian stamps in his collection were obliterated through the kindly accommodation of his rural postmaster, not two miles from his home. On the contrary I shall endeavor to give you some of my own thoughts on this delightful pastime, and if you are an advanced collector, or even a specialist, I am sure that some of my ideas will appear quite funny, perhaps even silly, to you.

Is philately a science? That question, brought before us some years ago hundreds of times, has been answered by very good people, both in the affirmative and in the negative, and with the best of reasons.

Philately undoubtedly is a science with some people who take delight in searching for the minu est details, for everything connected with stamps, however remotely, their use and their manufacture. But for pity's sake do not demand from every stamp collector that he shall treat his hobby scientifically. Some people have no use for any science whatever, and and there are few people who really want science mixed with their pleasures. A long time before philately was treated as a science, it was a pleasure for many. Botany is a science without doubt ; but who will deny that a greater amount of keen delight and healthful pleasure is derived from the millions of large and small flower gardens by their unscientific owners than from the far-reaching discoveries in plant life by learned professors?

Let us, my friends, not spoil the real fun that is in stamp collecting generally, by the introduction of too much scientific principles into our collections. If you tell a boy that a collection, without regard to watermarks, perforations, soft porous and hard brittle paper, is not worth having, and if that boy then believes you, what will be the consequence? In ninety nine cases out of a hundred, that boy will throw up collecting entirely, because it is too much like hard work. And he is right! He wants no hard work — he wants pleasure and amusement out of his collection. I hope that boy will not believe you, for after all you are wrong yourself! Did not you tell me that it is altogether impossible for you to treat more than a very small group of countries in the highly scientific way that you have chosen? What a poor, insignificant picture does your special collection, with its endless varieties and sub-varieties, of this little group of countries, present, compared with a fairly representative collection of the whole world.

A very rich man built himself a magnificent home, grand in every respect. The same man was also an enthusiastic stamp collector, and gathered together a marvelous collection, you might say, a specialist's collection, in every single country. He then invited three friends that were also stamp collectors, but not rich. to look at his house and at his collection, and they admired both very much. One year afterwards the three friends met again and began talking. Said the first : "After I had seen our friend's house, I did not like mine any more, and I sold it and began building a new one, just as fine as his. I have finished the hall, mosaic floor covered with costly rugs, walls of onyx, and the finest brass work ; but now I find my funds are entirely exhausted, and I really do not know what to do, because I cannot sleep, and cook, and live in that magnificent hall. I think I shall have to sell my stamp collection to build a little shanty near that hall where I can live."

" O, you are a fool," said the second. " I have not done anything of the kind, only I did not like my stamp collection after I saw his, and I sold it and collected only United States, and made a fine show in that country ; but now that the new advance sheets are out, I hardly think I can follow with half of the Newspaper and Department stamps on two or three different papers. I think I will sell my house in order to get these high-priced gems and make my collection complete."

THE CANADIAN WEEKLY STAMP NEWS.

Published Every Thursday.

WM. R. ADAMS, Editor and Manager.

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BUSINESS OFFICE.

24 ADELAIDE ST. EAST, TORONTO, ONT.

A Merry Christmas to you.

It may not be generally known that Hon. William Mulock, the Postmaster-General of the Dominion, was, in his younger days, an ardent collector.

Mr. Walter McMahon, publisher of the announced Philatelic Canadian, states that Mr. Weldon has no share whatever in that journal, beyond contributing to its columns.

The first copy of the Halifax Philatelic Magazine has reached us. We read, with surprise, the opening article—a history of the Dominion Philatelic Association. As we never had any say in the affairs of the society previous to publishing the Canadian Philatelic Magazine—some 16 months ago—some of the information is "news" to us. We doubt not but that something will be heard from other parties in regard to this article, and we do know that when Mr. Weatherston resigned, the society was free from debt, if not funds on hand. It was Mr. Weatherston who appointed Mr. Irving E. Patterson to be secretary. Mr. Weatherston was one of the best officers the society ever had, and even Mr. Muirhead states this to be so in the forepart of the article. Had not other affairs taken up a great deal of Mr. Weatherston's time, he would have continued his trust. In fact he once proposed that as no one, apparently, appeared to be taking any interest in the society, it should be amalgamated with the P. S. of A. It was a move we opposed, and this led to Mr. Patterson becoming secretary. A few other statements regarding the official organ prove that the writer was not correctly informed, and we may say more later on.

The holiday season has not hind red stamps anything like it usually do s.

(Continued from 1st page.)

And the third said nothing; but as he had made a li-tle money during the year, he bought all the two had to sell, and after that he had a better furnished house and a much larger stamp collection than either of them, and was happy and content.

Who was the wisest, and whom will you follow? You wish to know what I collect myself. Everything issued for postal purposes that is or has a stamp on it—adhesives, cards and envelopes of the world. When I was a boy I enjoyed even Hamburg locals, and any kind of foreign revenues, because they looked like stamps. When I found out that Hamburg locals were frauds, and that revenue stamps had nothing to do with the post office, I discarded both kinds. Russian rural stamps are very interesting, but to get them all, takes the money of a millionaire and the search of a lifetime, says Karl Ludwig in Filatelic Facts and Fallacies. Scandinavian and German locals are not much better than fakes, but they give testimony of very peculiar postal arrangements in these countries. Of these three kinds I made, therefore, some nice groups and kept them with my collection. There is nothing complete in them, but they serve well to illustrate certain things. Indian native states, for some reason hardly known to myself, I treated similarly, and quite lately I have added one page of Chinese treaty ports.

Being a German, I have always specialized a little in the old German States, giving a good deal of attention to entire old German envelopes, which I can say I have quite fine. I have a fairly good collection of most anything, although any specialist would call my English colonials and United States hardly up to average. I had always a strong liking for unfashionable stamps, and therefore have now a fine lot of Madagascar large labels and New Republic. Should anybody wish to know a little about the early issues of Salvador envelopes, I can show most of them in varieties all entire. If I can gradually fill the main varieties of all other countries, I am satisfied; and if a peculiar variety comes my way, I take that also.

As for the boy who starts a collection, I should say, try to get a printed album without too trifling varieties, and then make it a point to get at least one stamp of every country. After that fill up the commoner sets, and don't get a dollar stamp instead of one hundred at a cent. The larger variety will teach you more than the one specimen. Buy carefully, but don't consider all the time which stamps will go up in value. I have read that a new common sense album is to be issued. Buy that in preference to the present albums, which for the beginner make decidedly too much work. And last but not least do not specialize in one single country before you have at least given general collecting a real good chance.

NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT.

Now is the time to buy, says C. E. Severn in the International Philatelist. Stamps are cheap in the face of the present stringency in financial lines. Money is more powerful, more valuable now, than it is in normal times. It has a larger expansion, a larger purchasing range at this day, than it will, if all goes well, within a year or less, from the present.

The stamp collector with little or much money to spend should buy stamps now, when money will do the most execution. In the stamp world, there exists a condition which is paraleled, perhaps, in any other business and semi-commercial circles. The speculative-minded feel that this is the time to sow cents to reap dollars in the future.

Nearly everybody collects U.S. stamps consequently they are standard and a safe investment. One can fill one's U. S. blank spaces at a more favorable rate compared with catalogue values now than one could for many years heretofore

Let us consider some of the stamps that are usually lacking in the fairly good collections of U. S. The five cent 1851, is priced at $13 50 in the advance sheets. This stamp is being advertised at from $9 to $11 in the current numbers of stamp journals. Condition is a most important factor in appraising the value of this stamp. One specimen may be cheap at ten dollars and another dear at the same figure; you look at the margins when you buy the stamp The 5 cent, 1851, is staple and you can buy one at a more advantageous price now than at any time in the future.

The 90 cent, 1855-60, reverses the usual order of things as it is catalogued higher used than unused. The advance sheet price is $27 50. It is possible to buy a fine specimen to-day for from $20 to $22 50 Money spent for this stamp is well spent. Its position among the scarcities is better defined, even than some of the U.S. that catalogue more.

The ninety-cent, 1868, will be $18 in the new catalogue. It is somewhat difficult to get a centered specimen showing the grill clearly. The stamp is being offered nowadays by dealers occasionally, at from $12 to $15 and all will concede that the stamp is one that lends dignity to any collection and that

it should be got while it may

The ninety of '69 has reached $20 in the advance sheets. The price of this stamp varies greatly, according to the condition. It is doubtful whether any stamp holds its price so well as a good specimen of this ninety. Nearly every dealer has one or more customers who desire perfect specimens of the stamp. The well-centered copy of good color will bring very near, if not quite, full catalogue rates, and the stamp will never be cheaper, its price never will be lower, than it is at present

The unwatermarked dollar values 1894, have about reached bottom prices. The slump in their case has been most pronounced, and they are now generally advertised by dealers at a slight advance over face. As times become easier, the prices will doubtlessly rise steadily.

No mistake can be made in filling in the departments at prevailing dealer's prices. Though the 24 cent and 90 cent State unused have attained $10 and $15 respectively, in the advance sheets, they are stamps well worthy of purchase, even at prices based on these quotations. The 24 cent Justice, though doubled in price and now $20, is still priced reasonably, and he who lacks this royal stamp should make haste to obtain it at any fair proportion of $20.

The new price of the 10 cent Executive, $12.50, is low enough. Were the collector to pay quite this sum for a perfect specimen, he would not be getting the worst of it.

(To be Concluded in next issue.)

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See these Figures?

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CANADA

		Cat. Price.	My Price.
1851	3d red, laid paper	1 50	90
1852	— wove paper	35	19
	— — unused	4 00	2 00
	6d, large margins and a fine copy		5 50
	6d, fair copy	5 00	3 25
1857	½d pink, good copies	4 00	2 00
	½d pink, pair		5 75
	½d pink, very fine	4 00	3 00
1858	3d ribbed	2 50	90
	½d pink, perforated	8 50	5 25
	½d pink, perforated, unused, little soiled	12 00	6 00
	3d red, perforated	3 50	1 75
	3d red, perforated, RIBBED, very fine	20 00	12 00
1859	5c vermilion, VARIETY, fine	15 00	9 00
	2c pink, unused	2 50	2 00
	12½c green, unused	2 50	2 00
	17c blue	1 50	1 00
1868	1c brown-red, watermarked	2 00	1 50
1870	1c brown-red, laid paper, unused	40 00	22 00
	1c brown-red, laid paper, used, fine	15 00	10 00
	3c red, laid paper	5 00	2 25
1875	8c blue registered, very fine copies	2 50	1 80
1880	5c vermilion Envelope, entire, used, fine		1 00
1890	3c WOVE PAPER, Envelope, entire, used.	5 00	1 50

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

1865	1c orange, used	3 50	1 75
	2c blue, used	5 00	2 50
	3c rose, used	2 50	1 25
	4c green, used	5 00	2 50
	6c black, used	5 00	2 50
	12c mauve, used	6 00	3 00
	3c, error, rare	5 00	2 75

UNITED STATES POSTAGE

1847	5c brown (original cover, 60c)	85	50
1851	5c brown, very fine	11 00	9 00
	10c green	1 00	65
1855	5c brown, type II	2 50	1 75
	10c green	50	27
	24c lilac	4 50	3 00
1861	5c brown	40	25
	30c orange	50	40
	90c blue, fine	3 50	3 00
1868	1c blue, embossed	1 25	65
	2c black, embossed	25	14
1869	3c blue, no embossing, used		3 00
	10c yellow, unused, corner stamp		3 75
	15c brown and blue, fine	1 75	1 50
	24c green and purple	7 50	5 00
1872	24c purple	2 00	1 35
	90c carmine	1 00	80
1873	10c brown unused (Cont)	1 00	70

MISCELLANEOUS

Newfoundland, 4d lake, entire sheet	20 00	11 00
" 6d lake, "	20 00	11 00
Quebec Law Stamps, $10, $20, $30	155 00	35 00
" " " $10, $20, $30, 1890 issue.	85 00	20 00

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1887	1c green	02
	2c orange	04
	5c blue	08
	10c black	15
1890	½c black	01
	3c slate	05
	6c deep pink	09
	12c puce brown	18

NEW ISSUES. 1896 UNUSED.

Barbados, ½p	02
Brit. South Africa, ½p	03
" " " 1p	05
" " " 2p	10
Chamba, 1½a	08
" 2 a	15
Cyprus, 30pa	06
" 1pia	06
" 2pia	12
" 4pia	25
" 6pia	35
" 12pia	70
Falkland Islands, 1p	05
" " 2p	12
" " 9p	35
" " 18a	50
Figi Islands, 1p	05
Gibraltar, 20c	08
" 2pcs	75
Grenada, 1p	05
Gwalior, 2½a	15
Johore, 1c	02
" 2c	04
" 3c	06
Trinidad, ½p	03
" 1p	05
" 2½p	10

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